

Office of Professional Accountability (OPA) Commendations & Complaints Report February 2003

Commendations:

Commendations Received in February: 141

Commendations Received to Date: 207

Rank	Summary
Detective	Thank you for taking on my case and helping me resolve the situation in a civil manner
2 Officers	Due to your safe and effective emergency driving, no one was hurt and a successful arrest was made; great job
Sergeant	Thank you for your counsel and guidance regarding the officers that went to California to interview and arrest 3 suspects returning from El Salvador
5 Officers	Thanks for your swift back up and expert action
Sergeant	Thank you for being master of ceremonies for Black History Month Fashion Show & Bite of Africa
2 Detectives	Thank you for presenting at our all staff meeting; great job
2 Detectives	City of Mercer Island thanks you for an outstanding presentation to our officers
Civilian	Thank you very much for the phone call and special attention; this reflects very positively on the Seattle Police Department
2 Officers	Thank you for retrieving my lost wallet
6 Civilians	Great job to the dispatchers who handled the "officer down" incident
All Officers	Thank you for keeping the peace march safe and orderly
Sergeant	Thank you for supporting the VST Volunteers
2 Captains	Great job on the crowd management refresher training
Officer	Thank you to the officer that handled the traffic stop involving my car. My son did not have permission to let his friend drive, we are very thankful you called us
Captain	Thank you for guest lecturing at Shoreline Community College
Officer	Thank you for finding my missing brother
2 Officers	Excellent work on the case; you were very professional and efficient
2 Officers	Governors 20 list placement in Washington State Police Pistol Association
2 Officers	Thank you for your quick thinking and heroic efforts which saved a life
3 Officers	Outstanding, thorough investigation regarding the sexual assault incident
All Officers	Excellent job on keeping the protest under control and on course
2 Officers	Great work fingerprinting a stolen car, that led to an arrest
Officer	Thank you for going the extra mile when responding to my car break-in; calling the auto glass company was very nice of you
Officer	Thank you for returning my lost check, I was able to get it to the original recipient
Officer	Excellent job of finding the burglar who stole our Christmas presents from under our tree
2 Officer	Thank you for finding the 2 missing girls
Officer	Thank you for a great presentation to Central Washington University Criminal Justice class
2 Officers	Thank you for recovering my stolen handbags that were taken from my car at the gas station

2 Officers	I was extremely impressed with the way the officer questioned the parents of the suicidal teenager at Harborview; they were very professional
Officer	Thank you for helping out with the Pierce County promotional exam
2 Assistant Chiefs, 1 Lieutenant, 2 Captains, 4 Sergeants, 13 Detective, 47 Officers, 12 Civilians	Thank you for making our Summer Youth Program a huge success; by the end of the summer over 10,118 youth had been reached
Officer	Thank you for helping out the Western Region Exploring Conference; without your endless effort and unwavering determination, the event would not have been a success.
Assistant Chief	Thank you for participating in the 2003 Junior Achievement Groundhog Job Shadow Program. The high school students that shadowed you for the day were very impressed with you and what you do.
1 Sergeant & 6 Officers	Thanks to the ANTI-CRIME-TEAM, for all their help with narcotics investigation in Rainier Valley and West Seattle areas

February 2003 Closed Cases:

Cases involving alleged misconduct of officers and employees in the course of their official public duties are summarized below. Identifying information has been removed.

Cases are reported by allegation type. One case may be reported under more than one category.

UNNECESSARY FORCE

Synopsis	Action Taken
Complainant alleged that officers used unnecessary force during the capture and arrest of a subject fleeing from a domestic violence incident.	The subject had committed a violent domestic assault and ran away to avoid capture. When caught by officers, he resisted to avoid arrest. Investigation showed that the use of force reported, documented, and screened was appropriate to control the subject and consistent with the subject's injuries. Finding – EXONERATED.
Complainant alleged he was kicked and that the officer made inappropriate remarks during a pat down.	Investigation showed the complainant was not credible, and that no force was used during the pat down. Findings – UNFOUNDED.
Complainant alleged officers used excessive force on her boyfriend during an investigation and arrest.	Investigation showed that the force used was documented and screened, and necessary and reasonable to arrest the subject, who was armed with two guns. Finding – EXONERATED.
Complainants alleged off-duty officers working security at a RAVE party used unnecessary force when they escorted the complainants off the property, refused to give their badge numbers and took back a paper with that information, and used profanity to order the complainants off the property.	Thorough investigation revealed that minimal, reasonable force was used to control the intoxicated and non-compliant complainants. Independent witnesses did not support the complainants' claims regarding the alleged refusal to give badge numbers and the alleged use of profanity. Findings – UNFOUNDED.

CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER

Synopsis	Action Taken
Complainant alleged that while at a concert at Key Arena the named officer used profanity in his contact with an acquaintance of hers. Complainant also alleged that when she attempted to touch the acquaintance to reassure him, the named officer pushed her in the shoulder.	Evidence gathered in the investigation revealed by a preponderance of the evidence that the allegation of profanity was not accurate and did not occur as described. Finding – UNFOUNDED. The evidence related to the touching showed by a preponderance of the evidence that the light hand contact was lawful and proper. Finding – EXONERATED.
Complainant alleged officer went to his workplace and used profanity to discuss the behavior that led to the complainant's arrest for eluding the police. The complainant alleged that this led to the termination of his employment.	Investigation showed that the complainant initiated the encounter at the workplace, and that mild profanity was likely used. The evidence showed that the officer did not exert any improper influence over the complainant's employment, but that his conduct may have created that appearance. Finding – Converted to Supervisory Referral (SR).
Complainant alleged named officer made an unprofessional and mildly profane comment at a festival when he was seeking the officer's assistance for a medical emergency with the complainant's wife.	Investigation showed the officer responded appropriately to assist the complainant's wife, and no witnesses heard the alleged remark. Finding – UNFOUNDED.

FAILURE TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION

Synopsis	Action Taken
The chain of command alleged that a 911 dispatcher failed to take appropriate action in response to a call for medical assistance in a domestic disturbance.	Complaint investigation confirmed that the employee failed to follow procedure. Finding – SUSTAINED.
Complainant alleged named officer, who was working an off-duty security job at a private party, failed to detain or identify an individual who assaulted the complainant's wife.	The investigation showed that the officer did not take appropriate action to apprehend or identify the suspect. Finding – SUSTAINED.

Definitions of Findings:

Sustained: The allegation of misconduct is supported by the evidence.

Not Sustained: The evidence neither proves nor disproves the allegation of misconduct.

Exonerated: The event described did occur, and the actions taken by the officer(s) were lawful and proper.

Unfounded: The allegation of misconduct did not occur as described.

Administratively Unfounded or Administratively Inactivated: The case has a fundamental legal or procedural defect or the involved personnel cannot be identified. Inactivated cases may be re-opened if new information is received.

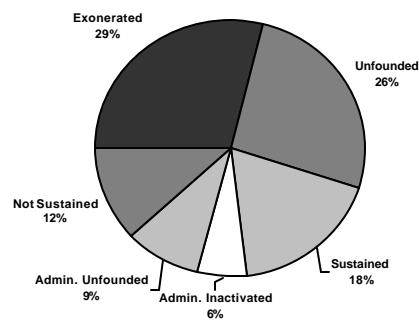
Status of OPA Contacts to Date:

2002 Contacts

	December 2002	Jan. - Dec. 2002
Contact Logs	50	573
Cases Assigned for Supervisory Review	11	104
Cases Assigned for Investigation (IS; LI)	17	201
Cases Closed	14	118*
Cases with a Sustained Allegation	4	25 (21%)*
Commendations	27	1,416

*includes 2002 cases closed in 2003

CHART A
Dispositions of Allegations in Completed Investigations
2002 Cases
N=231 Allegations in 118 cases



2003 Contacts

	February 2003	Jan-Dec 2003
Contact Logs	47	100
Cases Assigned for Supervisory Review	7	15
Cases Assigned for Investigation (IS;LI)	11	23
Commendations	141	207